

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EA-11 IO-12 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EB-11 RSR-01 INRE-00 /162 W
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P R 021455 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3499

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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F. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, BG

SUBJ: INDIAN EMISSARY TO BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN.

SUMMARY: FORMER PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER P. N. HAKSAR REPORTEDLY ARRIVED DACCA APRIL 1 AND ACCORDING TO TIMES OF INDIA, ALSO DUE TO VISIT ISLAMABAD SECOND WEEK OF APRIL. VISIT TO ISLAMABAD, WHICH JOURNALIST SPECIALIZING IN INDIA- PAKISTAN INSISTS IS " HARD NEWS", WOULD REPRESENT DIRECT INDIAN EFFORT TO UNRAVEL KNOTTYSUBCONTINENTAL PROBLEMS. BY PLACING DACCA FIRST ON HAKSAR SCHEDULE, GOI HAS EMPHASIZED ITS DESIRE MOVE ONLY WITH BANGLADESH CONCURRENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. HAKSAR MISSION: PRESS APRIL 1 REPORTED DESPATCH OF HAKSAR TO DACCA, AND TIMES OF INDIA APRIL 2 ADDED THAT HE DUE TO VISIT ISLAMABAD " WITH FRESH PROPOSAL TO BREAK PRESENT DEADLOCK" IN SECOND WEEK OF APRIL, SHORTLY AFTER BHUTTO' S RETURN FROM IRAN.
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WORKING LEVEL MEA UNINFORMED, BUT DELHI BUREAU CHIEF OF TIMES OF INDIA, DILIP MUKERJEE, INSISTS REPORT IS CORRECT.

2. INDIAN STANCE: PRESS REPORTS (OBVIOUSLY INSPIRED) OF HAKSAR VISIT TO DACCA GENERALS TERM IT " INITIATIVE, SAY TALKS IN DACCA WILL COVER " ENTIRE RANGE" OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN INDIA- PAKIS- TAN- BANGLADESH IMPASSE, AND OBSERVE BANGLADESH CONCURRENCE NECESSARY FOR DISCUSSION OF POW ISSUE WITH PAKISTAN. PRESS HAD NOTED BHUTTO' S MARCH 29 COMMENTS ON RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH (ISLAMABAD 2607) AND AT LEAST ONE SUGGESTED THIS FACTOR IN INDIA " INITIATIVE". SUNDAY STANDARD (INDIAN EXPRESS) COLUMNIST C. S. PANDIT ARGUED RECOGNITION BY PAKISTAN " IMMATERIAL" IN VIEW RECOGNITION BY OVER 100 COUNTRIES. HE FLOATED POSSIBILITY RECOGNITION MIGHT BE " SIDE- STEPPED" AND EFFORTS DIRECTED TO RELEASE OF ALL BUT THOSE FEW HUNDRED POWS DESIRED FOR TRIAL, IN RESPONSE FOR RETURN OF BENGALI CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY IN PAKISTAN.

3. COMMENT: NEITHER PRESS NOR OUR OWN CONTACTS GIVE US ANY HINT INDIA WILLING TO MOVE WITHOUT FULL AGREEMENT OF BANGLADESH, AND MOST CONTINUE ALSO TO EMPHASIZE INDIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO PUT PRESSURE ON MUJIB. SINCE INDIA HAS REASONS FOR WISHING TO DIVEST ITSELF OF POWS, VISIT BY MRS GANDHIS TRUSTED CONFIDANT HAKSAR APPEARS BEST WAY, SHORT OF DIRECT MEETING OF TWO PRIME MINISTERS, TO GAUGE AND, WITHIN LIMITS, INFLUENCE MUJIB.

MOYNIHAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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